

1 ABSTRACT

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3 In a switching protection system, a protocol is followed by a first connection controller to
4 help facilitate the resynchronization of the network after the failure has occurred. This protocol
5 contains the messaging system of the ability to query and store the exact sequence of logical
6 ports and time slots that make up the data path, as a resynchronization table coupled to the first
7 controller. The head/ingress end of the path can receive this information during set-up and can
8 store it both locally and in shadow locations. The system also contains the ability to distinguish
9 between signaling and data channel failures, as signaling channel failures to do not clear cross
10 connect data but simply leave it "ownerless". The system also contains the ability to populate
11 the exact sequence of logical ports and time slots accumulated in the definition of the network, as
12 the set-up message initiated by the head controller to re-claim "ownerless" cross connections
13 contained on respective network elements. The system also facilitates the clearing of a
14 "ownerless" cross connection after a pre-determined period of time has lapsed.